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Updated Lake Powell Pipeline Cost Estimate Released

Salt Lake City, Utah -- The construction cost for the Lake Powell Pipeline Project has been recently completed and now stands at $1.064 billion. The updated cost estimate from June 2008 represents a good faith "snapshot in time." "Costs have risen sharply over the past several years, as they have for similar major construction projects nationwide," said Utah Division of Water Resources Director Dennis Strong. The Division is in charge of the pipeline development. Major factors in cost escalation include cost of fuel, steel prices, other material prices and construction costs.

According to MWH Americas, Inc., the preliminary engineering consultant, the updated cost opinion is based on construction of the project components including the Lake Powell Pipeline, an intake pump station, four booster pump stations, two regulating tanks, seven hydropower facilities and associated reservoirs, and power transmission lines.

Because projects of this size take years to design, review and construct, cost opinions are frequently reviewed and adjusted to represent current conditions. "Our goal is to maintain an optimal engineering and construction schedule to minimize the effects of inflation," said Strong.

The project involves approximately 139 miles of pipeline from Lake Powell to Sand Hollow Reservoir and an additional 35 miles of pipeline from Sand Hollow Reservoir to Cedar City. Pumping facilities at Lake Powell near Glen Canyon Dam and booster pumping stations along the alignment will lift water over the highest point. Hydroelectric generating facilities will capture the power of that water as it flows from the high point to Sand Hollow reservoir. The hydropower will help defray project costs.

When complete in 2020, the Lake Powell Pipeline will provide Southern Utah residents with an unparalleled level of water supply security. "Our customers – those here today and our children and grandchildren who come after us – have a right to expect high quality water to flow. This project ensures that outcome," said Strong.

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